



UNCLASSIFIED



House Armed Services Committee

DAILY SUMMARY – OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Current as of 12:00 p.m. EST March 28, 2003

Significant Events Last 24 Hours

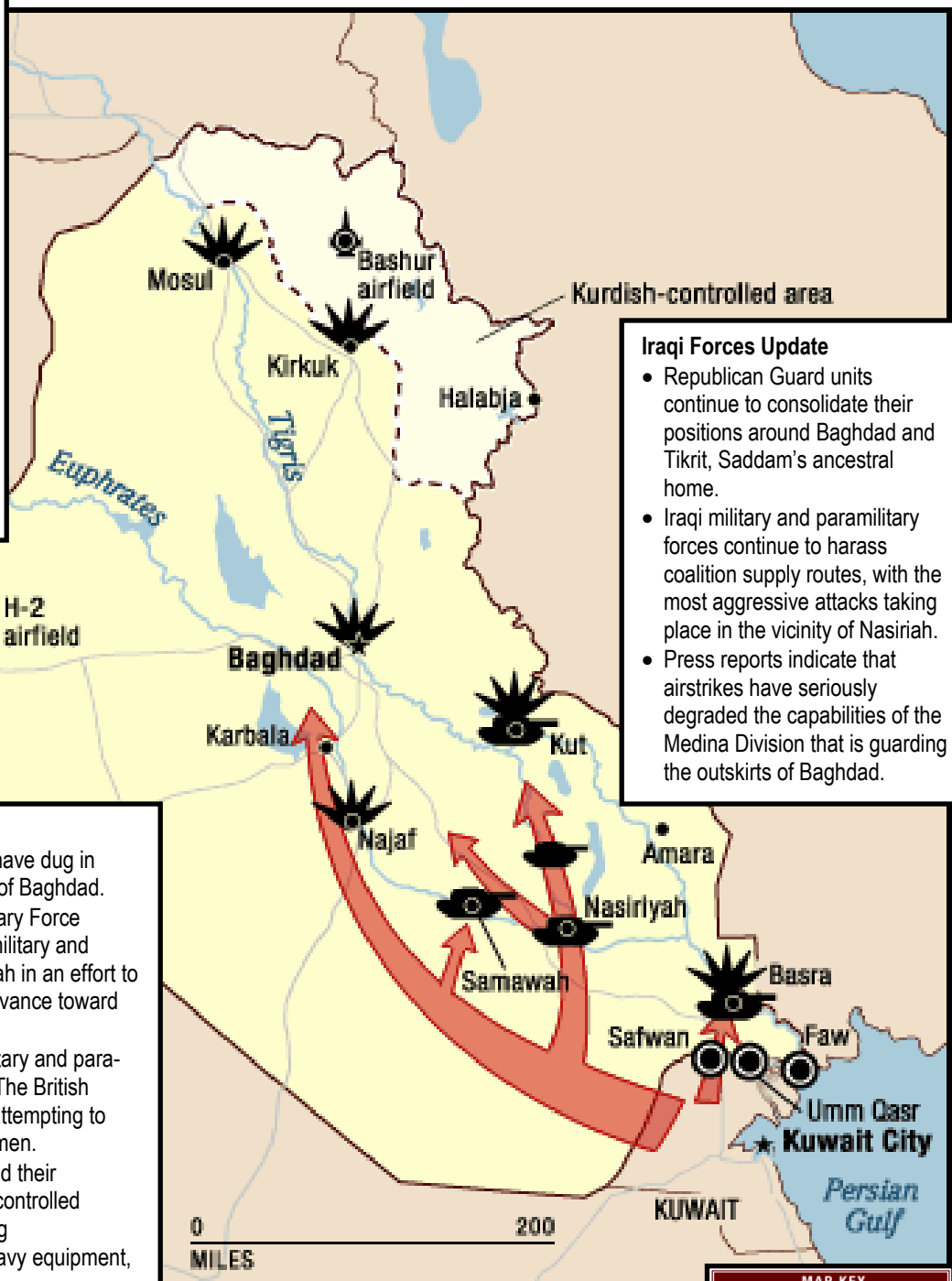
- Coalition air forces conducted one of the heaviest air strikes to date on Baghdad. Strikes included the use of two “bunker-buster” bombs and appeared to concentrate on Iraqi communications facilities.
- The 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) from Ft. Hood, TX has begun to deploy to the theater to reinforce coalition forces. The Department of Defense indicated that some 100,000 additional troops may be sent to the region next month.
- Coalition ground forces are consolidating positions, rearming and refueling in preparation for future operations in the vicinity of Baghdad.

Iraqi Forces Update

- Republican Guard units continue to consolidate their positions around Baghdad and Tikrit, Saddam’s ancestral home.
- Iraqi military and paramilitary forces continue to harass coalition supply routes, with the most aggressive attacks taking place in the vicinity of Nasiriah.
- Press reports indicate that airstrikes have seriously degraded the capabilities of the Medina Division that is guarding the outskirts of Baghdad.

Coalition Forces Update

- The 3rd Infantry Division is reported to have dug in close to Karbala, some 50 miles south of Baghdad.
- Marines from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force continue to face opposition from Iraqi military and paramilitary forces in the vicinity Nasiriah in an effort to keep their supply lines open as they advance toward the town of Kut.
- British forces continue to fight Iraqi military and paramilitary forces in the vicinity of Basra. The British report that thousands of Iraqi civilians attempting to flee Basra were fired on by Iraqi militiamen.
- The 173rd Airborne Brigade consolidated their positions around an airfield in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq as the U.S. began airlifting reinforcements, including tanks and heavy equipment, into the area.



MAP KEY

- Battle Site
- ★ Airstrike
- Ground attack
- Captured city
- ✈ Airfields
- Oil fields

Sources: Unclassified Department of Defense Sources and Press Reports; map from *The Washington Post*.